

4^d

THE Distressed Case

Of the People called

QUAKERS

In the CITY of

BRISTOL,

AND

Their Inhumane Usage for their Religious Peaceable Assemblies nakedly Related, and Credibly Certified from the said City, by Persons that were Eye and Ear Witnesses of matters of Fact.

HUMBLY PRESENTED

To the tender Consideration of AUTHORITY, and of all True Protestant Subjects.

Published for prevention of mis-representations, though not by the Sufferers themselves, but by other Hands, from a real commiseration of their distressed condition.

L O N D O N,

Printed for Benjamin Clark in George-yard in
Lombard-street Bookseller, 1682.

30 Jun^r. 1682.

And therefore

Of the people called

CHALKERS

In the CITY of

TOP SECRET

[illegible]

*A Particular Relation of the hard Usage of
the People called Quakers in the City of
Bristol*

WHE the King's Processions Subjects on the behalf
of our selves and the rest of our Friends, re-
spectfully called *Quakers*, Inhabitants of the
City of Bristol, now under severe, cruel and daily threats
of Ruin to us and our innocent Families, for our difference
in the Peaceable exercise of our Christian Religion and
Duty towards Godly Do^r Testify that herein our Peace of
Conscience is concerned; and in this very Cause we be-
dare these undeserved Sufferings and detestable Harsh-
ships, whatever our Adversaries pretend to the contrary,
whose pretences are various. One while they pretend a
Rise against our peaceable Meetings; another while a dif-
ferent manner of Religious Exercise; another while, be-
cause some gave their Voice at the last Elections, &c.
how unwarrantable such pretences and revenges are, we leave
to all judicious Englishmen to judge. The account of our
Grievances followeth, viz. On the fourteenth of Decem-
ber last, Captain Arnold, Walter Markins, Matthew Jones,
Henry Attorney, & others, with some other Gentlemen
of the Ward, and a large Rabble of rude Rascals, came to
our Meeting-house at the Parish called St. James's Parish,
under pretence to levy a Fine of 10^s. they said was imposed
on the said House for not having a man in Arms at the last
Meeting, did there sit down on the heavy Formers stools and
Chairs, breaking many of the same pieces and having
thus broken them, and made them worse, they per-
sued before-hand to make good, would smite and
beat the Boys to break the Glass Windows, and beat
down

down the Galleries and Waincoats, and other things fixed to the Fire-hold, breaking into a small Inclosure or Cellar, and making waste and Spoil of the Goods of the Inhabitant thereof; the pieces of these Ruins, they gave much away; some they haled away by Draw-men (which we call *Hallers*) therell committed to the Fire. And not yet contented, went up Stairs into the Trenchment of *Elizabeth Batho Widow*, And threw down thence into the Meeting-room some of her Household Goods, of which a Bed was by the particular order of *Ralph Olive junior*, commanded to the Fire, but saved from burning by the Intercession of one present beholding the Spoil.

The next of the last Month, *Albanius Dille*, with the *Street Officers*, attended with the Rabble of rude Boys, came again to the late House, and fell to knocking and tearing off the Posts and Shims of the ruined Galleries, the Alderman proceeding up to the dwelling-house, intended the door to be open, and he would have it open, it being opened in his name, that might be done, and they began to pull down the Windows, Trenchment, Stairs, down Chairs and other complements of the House, which being broken, the Rabble carried away as their Spoil; they also unloosed the *Carpeted Floor*, and sent them to *Walter*, and he let them have it.

The next of the last Month, our Friends being there met, *Richard* (the member of the City) sitting, *John Kettle*, *Stephen*, *John*, *Heather* and other Officers, together with the Rabble of Rude Boys, came and did what they pleased, taking the same as they did them, some of them which were taken from the *Meeting Room*, they proceeded to the *Widow's Dwelling House*, where they broke down the Closets, and Cupboards, and Waincoats, and Partition of two Rooms, and much of the Glass Windows of the Trenchment, unloosed the *Carpeted Floor*, and sent them to *Walter*, and he let them have it. (S) Fire Dogs, *Librarians*, *Hand Cards*, *Form*, and *Window leaves* and *Chamber doors*, &c. Then they went down through a great Window about 20 Feet down into the Meeting-Room, which they carried away as their Spoil.

Thus far the Spoil upon our Meeting-Houses, which with what the Widow hath Suffered, cannot reasonably be computed to lessthan 15000 Damages.

On which we further make Note, that our Meeting-house in *James Parish*, was not only never before Afflicted, nor of value lyable by the Law to find a man in Arms, not being in value 20 £ per Annum; and our Meeting-House in *Temple-street* of far les value, and never by them pretended to be Afflicted: And that in the Meeting in *James Parish* there was able the Value of five Pounds in Moveable Goods that they needed not for the Distress break or destroy * the fixed Freehold: They have Committed several of our Friends to *Bridwell*, taking them in the Street after the Meeting, whilst they have been waiting for their Relations to go home with them.

* 'Twas
a gross
and un-
warrant-
able act,
See the
Stat' 15
Cap. 2.
c. 4. Sect.
5. which
is for
Distress,
and not
to make
Ryots
upon
Houses,
&c.

And further, which is grievous to us, our Goal of Newgate being lide and a Naurious Stinking place, not fit for a Prison in such a City, where men of Traffick are frequently put, as drivers of our Enemies late short Impri-soned, who usually pay to the Kings Customs *more than dried Pounds yearly*. On the 25th inst. divers of our Friends were Committed to *Bridwell* as aforesaid, eight of them were then brought to Alderman Oliver's House before the said Alderman and Sir Robert Tomsen, who Committed them to Newgate, they remonstrated that Masters that there was bad Accommodation in the Goal, the Keeper coming in then after to receive his Prisoners, was questioned thereon, who confirmed the same, saying, *They had not a Room, nor a spare Bed nor Lodging for one man more*. How- ever they were notwithstanding Committed thence, and Eleven more came from *Bridwell* some after, then the fiftenth night, so that the small Room being almost full of Beds, they go in by turns, some ending up walls or others ly'e three in a Bed. Besides Comitting us, they come from our Meetings, as Breakers of the Peace, they have Beat some of our Friends with their Staves, taking of their Hats and throwing them away, treating them uncharitably, the Rude Boyes which they call in *an Audacious* using not civil Behaviour to the Women, and rudely tearing their Cloathes, encouraged to throw down the Ruins and Stools before

The Meeting was fully Dispersed, particularly one encouraged by a Constable, threw a small Stool, which Chanc'd to hit one of their own Party, who failed to know it was one of their own Party that threw it, and have presented the Meeting for, a Rior, hoping to cast the same upon the Meeting.

They have taken within five days above 1000 worth of Goods from seven of our Friends single, fines for themselves, and for them whom they pretend to be poor, that cannot pay for themselves, and proceed with their Convictions for Warrants for many hundred Pounds more. They Prosecute yet of our Friends on the Statutes made against *Popish Recusants*, and threaten us (knowing us not free to take any Oath) with the reviving of the Oath of Allegiance, to ruin us by a *Peremptory* Warrant. Our Millery attend many poor Families in this City, which our Friends have Employed, as Weavers and other Workers in Silk and Wool, and most other Handicraft Trades, which by reason we are thus hindered in Spinning, cannot hold out to continue them a Week longer many of them are already in Want, and sadly grieved with the terrible sense of their Ruine.

Although we have been extremely distressed, we are and ever hope to be found walking as unto Chains, and the King Peaceable Protestants, and we know our Hearts Witness well both to the Kings Person and Government, which we have considered to appear before God and Man, Praying that we may under his Government enjoy a Peaceable and quiet Life in all Goodness and Honesty, and may not be let in any way able men to distress us.

The Original and true Copy of the Petition of the

From Daniel the 17th

1688

1688

Postscript.

* Note,
That he
had an
Appeal
for his
Goods
taken;
then to
be Tried
but this
preven-
ted.

Besides the foregoing Relation, these Accounts are
since given from Bristol in the Month called Jan-
uary 1684.

One Dated the 14th Instant faith, that *Erasmus Dole*
had Goods taken from him to the Value of Twenty
Pounds; and not only so, but the Oath of *Allegiance* ten-
dred him in Court, which was a Surprize to him * to En-
snare him; and bring him into further Sufferings, only
sometime of Respite was granted him to consider of it, but
he Threatned to be further Prosecuted thereon.

Ibid.

Also that *Hannah Marriot* being at Prayer when the
Persecutors came into the Meeting, some others were
fined Twenty Pounds for her; which is conceived the
Act against Conventicles doth not Warrant.

Another dated the 22 Instant, Concerning itself being
so many Thronged in *Newgate*, faith, that if it were the
Summer it may be very dangerous, to be so Thronged in
this close and Noisome place, especially two Rooms which
are filled with Beds, Seven more, and Nine in the other,
and in some Beds three (in 4 Beds) and our poor Friends
are packed up into Cock-Locks, and way made for some
lights that they might see to Work: If they less more in
they must provide another Prison, else we must com-
plain.

Ibid.

John Mason Committed upon the Oath of *Allegiance* being
taken from the Meeting, though we conceive that Act
was never intended against the *Quakers*.

Ibid.

Griffith James Merchant, an Honest Peaceable man,
and Inhabitant in *Southwark* near *London*, tending about
his Lawful Occasions to Bristol, was likewise taken at the
Meeting, and the Oath of *Allegiance* tendered to him,
and he Committed to Prison for Refusal, the Bishop was
present, and Forwarded the Tender of the Oath.

Ibid.

Yesterday *John Hellier* the Attorney and his Company
were very rude, Tearing several Womens Scarves, and
biding the Boys Tear them. That

Another Account dated the 10th day of the said 11th Month 1681. Informs, That on the 29th of the same, there were 28 of our Friends more carried to Prison: Ten whither to Newgate, and 18 to Bridewell. Several where- of were Women, as Katherine Gues, Joan Haly, Eliza- beth Hartford, Marg. Thomas with several more. Newgate being then so full that they must have more Prison-room, or else they must kill one another. And that Thomas Robert- son had the said Oath Tendered to him by the Bishop, &c. And for Conscience sake to Christ, refusing to Swear it, was Committed to Prison.

1st. Several of the Officers have signified to our Friends, Observe that these Sufferings were for Joyning with Presbyterians in Election of Parliament men.

2^{dly}. Also another Person of the Artillery Company Observe told one of our Friends, That their rage was not so much against us, as against the Presbyterians. And that if Mr. Benn, or Mr. Windhead would undertake for the Quakers, ceasing as to Election of Parliament men, they would be no further Persecution of them.

3^{dly}. It is to be observed that as to the manner of their Imprisonment, a great number of the said Persons called Quakers in the City of Bristol, now Prisoners, were apprehended at their Peaceable Meetings, and lawfully forced thence to Prison by the Officers and their assistants, and after some time detaining in Prison, they were had before the Mayor and some of the Justices, and Committ- ed to Prison, on pretence of being in an Unlawfull Assembly, and breaking of his Majesties Peace, when there was nothing in either Pretence, Intimidated by the Force, or violence of their Enemies, much less prov'd against them, nor any the least fault or offence that could be legally imputed to them. Intendant of the Prison.

But only that they did not precisely depose that none of the Sheriffs or Constables had command of Proclamations, without producing any Legal Warrants for Law or

*Vid. Dalt.
Step.
Lam. Cos.
&c.*

Statute we find not to Warrant such Proclamation for their wills and pleasures, to persons in a Peaceable Posture, and then to make their riot submitting thereunto presently a Riot. Whereas it is an evil Fact of Violence, Force and Injury done to others (not the number abstractly) makes a Riot. But our Peaceable Religious Meetings are nothing of this Nature. There's no Fact intended or done by them of the Nature and Species of Riot, there's nothing

* Three Persons met to do an Unlawful Act, and that with Force, is a Riot: But even the Conventicle Act Allows four to meet besides the Family: Therefore the Fact met above, is not Riotous, 'tis of another Species. There is no more consistency between Punishing our Peaceable Meetings, both for a Riot and for a religious Exercise, than it can be Truth to say they were Fighting, or in a Hot Fray, whilst on their knees at Prayer to God. Thus absurdly do these men Charge and punish

done *Interorem*. * Therefore these Officers Proclamation against the Persons Peaceably met to make their Meeting a Riot or breach of the publick Peace, appears *Arbitrary* and *Illegal*, and their manner of Imprisonments thereupon without any Judicial Examination or Warrant from any Justice of Peace, we presume are Irregular and Unwarrantable. We would fain know by what Law or Statute they thus proceed: Any what an ease run can they make Riots, &c.

Take one Instance amongst the many Abuses and Rudenesses acted against (and done to) the said People at their Meetings. One Maid was (as Account is given) sent by John *Bridewell* (as a Rioter) on occasion of giving a Rude Boy a Box on the Ear for his Shameful Incivility towards her, in his attempting to pull up her Coates: Presently she must be tryed out against for a Riot, for thus defending her Modesty, and sent to *Bridewell* too. But 'twas well the Justice had more Discretion and Justice than to admit further Process against her on that score. Only they should not suffer such gross Abuses and Debauched Carriages in these Rude Persons to go unpunished: Why are not such Rude Persons as Tear Women's Scarfs and attempt to pull up their Coats sent to *Bridewell*? O! Shame, shame, that ever such Sordid Abuses are suffered, even in the *Countess* at *London*, and in the *Prohibition of Christianity* &c.

*A farther Brief and Impartial Re-
lation of the Heads of the Persecu-
tion of the People called Quakers
in the City of Bristol, from the 6th.
12th. Month called Feb. 1681 un-
to the 19th first Month called
March 1681.*

Given in several Accounts, by Persons of
Credit in the City of Bristol.

Bristol the 6th of the 12th. Month called Feb. 1681
John Hellier with several other Constables and wondred
Rude Rable of Boyes, came to the Meeting at the
place called the Friars, where after Scolding, Jeering and
Abusing many in an extraordinary manner, he took an
Ancient man Robert Gerrish, and brought him among the
Women, and bid him Preach, calling him Foe and Spier,
and the Women Whores, violently driving them out;
asked the Women, whether they would let their Old
Friar go to Prison, and thrusting him among them, bid
him Kiss the Women, before he went, and so took him
to Bridewell. John Tilly threw down an Ancient Woman,
which hurt her much, so as she was forced to be led home
between two, bidding the Boyes Tear the Hoods and
Scarfs. John Hellier took off an Innocent Boyes Hat,
and threw it away, after he had struck him with his
Hand, and pull'd him up almost from the Ground by

the Hair of his Head. The Mother of the Child grieved thereat, speaking to him, he pull'd her Hat off and threw it off way, and her Elbow another, and Tore her Skirt. He took hold of another Young Woman, and Pinched her Arm, and after that he took hold of her Skirt, endeavoured to Tear it, and Wrenched her Hand, as if he would have torn it off. The Young Woman struggled very much with a Young Woman to Kiss her, and they sent several to Bridewell at their Wills and Pleasures, and afterwards at Night released them.

The 12th of the 12th Month called Feb. 1681.

At a Meeting in Temple Street, a Company of Rude Boyes coming before the Officers, Threw Dirt upon the Womens Cloathes and Necks, and a Dirty Matt in at the Window upon their Heads. Afterwards came Sheriff Knight, John Tilly, Thomas Luggs, Robert Blenkarn Register of the Bishopps Court, Edward Brand, William Higgin, &c. At this Meeting Margaret Thomas, an Ancient Woman, went to Sheriff Knight the chamberlaine to clear himself of Abuses, and put him in mind of some wicked Abuse which he had used to her, which he did not deny. At this the Sheriff Knight at a Meeting the 18th of March, Abused the Ancient Man, *Commons* *Ward*, Aged above 60 Years, Struck him often with his Cane, and also Threw up his Ploes, and Bruised him much by the Fall on his Back, afterwards he sent him to Newgate and publicly Boasted the next day of this Violent Behaviour to the poor People. Oh man I know many other shameful Abuses frequently done by Rude Boys in the presence of his Presence without Discomposure, though not immediately committed by him.

on James's blow of ash bars, and that he would
 on the 17th of the 12th Month called Feb.

THe same day in the Afternoon our Friends met again
 before the Door of their Meeting-House in James
 Parish, at which resorted John Helbar, John Tilly, Thomas
 Lugg, Edward Brand, Walter Watkins Marshal, and John
 Patrick Gardiner, and Edward Summers Butcher, upon
 Proclamation made, John Helbar began his Scoffing about
 the Wooden God, which was a Block our Friends used to
 sit on, and about the Old Friar, as he called an Antient
 man Robert Gerrish, the subject of his Laughter. And
 pitched upon ten men, and put them into the Meeting
 House, and then dispersed the Women, driving them as
 though he was driving Cattle; crying Pthrow; and being
 asked whether he made Beasts of them, he Replyed,
 that we were worse than Beasts, for Beasts will be driven,
 but you will not.

Three Women were put into the Meeting Room to
 the men, and one of them was Elizabeth Jaques, who
 sitting quietly on a Form, John Patrick came to her and
 endeavored to put her away violently, but she rising
 or flaying her self against the Door, he laid on her Neck-
 cloth and her Cloak, and pushed her by the Arm till it
 was sore, and pulled her away into the Meeting, where
 they Locked Friends for a time, and then Discharged all
 save one, (viz.) Thomas Hayes, still taking their Names;
 and the said Thomas Hayes they sent to Bridewell to the
 other Friends, who were all shut up in the Evening;
 on promise of Appearance next Morning, which they
 did; and then were Discharged upon Bonds of Appearance
 from Day to Day, whensoever the Mayor should require
 them. And the reason wherefore they were not Com-
 mitted as other, for refusing finding Sureties for good Be-
 haviour, (which were and endeavored by Sir Robert
 Martin Knight and Helbar) was the Bill of Motion
 of the Mayor concerning the Falon, which he particu-
 larly exclaimed against, as an Unlawful Person, and
 sent for him to be put in, being still already, and that it

was presented at Sessions, and that he would Commit no more till they had another Prison, and further that he was not well satisfied concerning the ground of such Commitment, and therefore would forbear till the Town Clark should return.

Witnesses to the Passages at this Meeting,

Robert Sumner.

Thomas Hayes.

Thomas Bayly.

Mary North.

Bridget Sneed.

Margaret Hale.

Elizabeth Vickris.

Elizabeth Jaques.

To Sir Thomas Earl Mayor, and the rest
of the Justices of the City of Bristol.

WE here present unto you the Complaint of many Oppressed Prisoners in this your Goal of Newgate, for what Cause is not unknown unto you, concerning the grievous Straights for Lodgings, being most of us Thronged in two Rooms, the one filled with Nine Beds, the other about Thirteen Foot Square with Seven Beds, sometimes there have been Three, sometimes Four in a Bed, whilst others lay up: The Sense whereof, together with the necessities for want of convenient Room for Work that our poor Friends are driven to with the Fullness and Closeness of the Goal in General: which by reason of its Unhealthiness hath been divers times Presented by the Grand Jury. And there being now above Fourscore Prisoners, puts us upon renewing our Modest Complaint unto you; and yet at the same time acknowledging your Compassion in granting an Order of Sessions for the Enlargement of the Goal, which we might reasonably have expected would have speedily ensued, but contrary thereto; notwithstanding all our endeavours with the Keeper, to the satisfaction of Sheriff Lane; we cannot as yet obtain what you have thought

fit to grant us: So unless you are pleased to see your said Order of Sessions effected (which is what we hereby desire of you) we are like to have our Healths and Lives exposed, for want of Reasonable Accommodation, who are

From Newgate Prison the

14. of the 12 Month

1681. where several of

us are much Indisposed

and Injured in our

Health.

Henry James.

John Herne.

Richard Reighly.

Hugh Bickham.

John Russe.

Edward Jones.

Edward Dowell.

John Heal.

William Diddicott.

John Sumption.

Joseph Wilcox.

John Philbridge.

Joseph Paskall.

Thomas Arnoll.

John Renner.

George Bennet.

Thomas Willis.

Thomas Window.

James Gayner.

Your Christian Friends.

Richard Sneed.

Edward Erbery.

Richard Vickus.

John Moon.

James Wall.

John Barnes.

Jesse Noble.

Arthur Russel.

John Watts.

Philip Russel.

Clement Oliver.

Joseph Renner.

John Bulgin.

Paul Moon.

William Tayler.

John Simmons.

William Brigg.

Robert Lux.

Miles David.

John Cowling.

Thomas Robertson.

Thomas Dixon.

Nicholas Taylor.

WE whose Names are hereunto Subscribed, do severally Testifie and declare, that on the Fifteenth day of this Instant Month of February, in the Four and Thirtieth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King Charles the Second over England, &c. Anno Domini 1681.

The

The Annexed Complaint or Petition was delivered in at the *Tolney* of the City of *Bristol*, and publicly Read by Order of Sir *Thomas Earl* Knight Mayor of the said City, Sir *Robert Cann* Knight and Barroner, *John Langford* Esq, *John Hicks* Esq, Aldermen, &c. of His Majesties Justices of the Peace, of and for the said City and County.

Which said Sir *Thomas Earl* Mayor, and the said other Justices then present, did in the said Court of *Tolney*, openly declare their Disatisfaction concerning the said Goal, esteeming it as an unfit and an Unhealthy Prison, and of dangerous consequence to the Lives of His Majesties Subjects: And did then not only declare their Willingness to have the same Enlarged, but also require their late Order of Sessions touching the same Goal, to be put in Execution, which *Richard Lane* Esq, one of the Sheriffs of the said City declared his Readiness to yield obedience to, being of the same Judgment and Opinion with the said Justices: But was rejected and resisted by Sheriff *Knight* who is the only Obstrueter. Witness our Hands this 15th of February 1681.

John Blissett
William Weaver
Henry Weaver

Andrew Wye, Jun.
Richard Ridley
Anthony Reece

The 15th. of the 12th Month 1681.

THE Certificate of Friends concerning the Goal, delivered by *Mary Wall*, and *Bridget Snead*, with Intimation of the Mayor's and Sir *Robert Cann*'s desire of a better Prison.

The Mayor was Dissatisfied with Convictions made, wherein they made all Poor but Four or Five. Whereas those whose Fines were laid upon others were as sufficient in Estate. The Mayor is Offended at Sheriff *Knight* and *John Helliar*, because he cannot get the Convictions of them though demanded.

And

And he would have all Convictions made above-board, and not in Ale-houses and Taverns. The Mayor also drew up a Protest against signing of that unequal Conviction, and protested against the Goal, as altogether unfit for such men to be put in: And Sir Robert Cann said, If he had a Dog that he Loved, he would not put him in Newgate; and Sheriff Knight should not. Un-Mayor the Mayor, nor Un-Alderman him, but keep his place: And the Mayor further said, He would Commit no more till there was a better Goal.

A Gain the difference between the Mayor and Sheriff Knight: The Mayor demands the Convictions, the Sheriff refuses to give them; the Mayor caused an Order of Court to be entered of the Demand and Refusal.

The Mayor said, He would have no more Convictions made in private; And shew'd the Abuse of those of late: And if any would Appeal thereon, they should have free Liberty. And said that he would have the Goods Brought and brought into a Publick Warehouse, and sell them in a Publick Court-lane. He would have an Account of the going of the Goods; and thar might be sold to its value; and have an Account of the Money. They began to threaten the Mayor, he shall not be Parliament-man. But we think that the Mayors Justice and Legal Endeavours in these things will be more to his Country's Benefit, than King and Parliament, than Sheriff Knight or Preaching House.

The

The 25th. of the 12th. Month Feb. 1688.

*Gives Account of Distresses of several of our Friends Goods
Distrained.*

Yesterday after the Meeting, *John Helliar*, *John Dilly*, *Edward Watkins* the Marinal, and others, came to *Richard Snea's* House to take Distresses for two Warrants, the one Ten Pound, the other Seven Pound Ten Shillings, for which they took of Goods to the value of Twenty Four Pounds. From *Edward Murrindale* for a Fine of Six Pound Thirteen Shillings, to the value of Thirteen Pound; from *Richard Vickris* for a Fine of about Seven Pound, Goods to the value of Eighteen Pound.

The 27th. of the 12th. Month Feb. 1688.

Relating the Imprisoning of Fourty Friends more or less, *Newgate*, who sat up all the last Night (except five) in the Kitchen and the Parlor, some lying upon the Boards, some under the Table where the great Dog used to lie, and some resting their Heads upon the Foot frame of the Table to get a little Rest. The next night they got in Mats, and spread them over the *Thorough Room*, and some in Hammocks over them; so that they lay on Heaps, and in the day time they put up their Mats to make Room for the Passengers. The Prison is like the *Exchange* at full time. The number of Friends here, is now Eighty Six, besides Felons, Debtors, and the Keeper and his Family. We see nothing but our Destruction is aimed at, and our Lives are hazarded, and the City In-danger'd with Infection.

In another Account bearing the same Date is Intimated.

Our Meetings were this day both Disturbed. To the Morning Meeting came *Job. Helliar, Ralph Oliffe Jun. John Tilly, Tho. Lugg, Job. Patrick, — Hoar, Nicholas Stanfild Apothecary, William Higgins, Edward Watkins Marshal,* with two or three of the Mayors and Sheriffs Officers, and began to take Names. *John Helliar* laid, *come all ye Tinkers, Coblers, Weavers, Pinnmakers, Taylers, Rabscallions and Tottenhemallions, that I may take your Names.* *Barbary Bladon* was Committed by *John Helliar* to *Bridewell*, for refusing to give her Name to them that knew it: They sent Twelve to *Bridewell* for continuing Meeting in the Street. In the Afternoon, together with the aforelaid Officers came *Captain Arundel, Nathaniel Powel, Robert Blinkhom, Thomas Dyer, George Hartwell:* and sent Thirty of the men to *Bridewell*: Two were dismiss in the Evening, the other Fourty Committed by Alderman *Oliffe* and sent to *Newgate* about Ten at Night. These Fourty were sent for the next day to Sessions, and from thence remanded to Prison, for not Ingaging to Traverse the Indictment, which was so great a Charge (for many of them being Poor) to bear. A Bill of Indictment was found against *Erasmus Dole* on the Statute of *Pre-
munire*.

The woful Cry of many Poor and Oppressed Prisoners in the Nasty Goal of Newgate in Bristol, and against the Hard-heartedness, Oppression and Cruelty of the Goaler, once more Presented to Sir Thomas Earl Mayor, and the rest of the Justices of this City.

The said Prisoners do hereby declare the Truth of their Case is following. After the said Prison was sufficiently filled with above Fourscore Prisoners of all sorts,

besides the Goaler and his Family, whereof being between
 Fourty and Fifty of us the People called *Quakers*, for
 no other Cause but Serving and Worshipping the Lord
 our God, who were most of us thronged together in two
 Rooms filled with Beds, viz. Nine in one, and Seven in
 the other, many poor men being thus straitened,
 desired admittance into Traytors Ward, being that
 Appartment of the Prison, that hath been Antiently appro-
 priated as free to the Kings Prisoners, and never till of
 late (as we know of) viz. (since the present Goaler's time)
 denied to the People called *Quakers*, when desired; and
 though there were not above Seven or Eight Debtors
 Lodged in that Room, which is large; yet could not the
 Kings Prisoners be admitted, the Goaler suffering the said
 Debtors to keep them out, on purpose (as we conceive)
 to make a Prey of a parcel of Poor Handicraftsmen, who
 have nothing to maintain them and their Families, but
 their dayly Labour, at that poor rate they are now, by
 means of their Imprisonment reduced to; for want of
 Conviency of Room for work.

The consideration hereof nothing moving the Goaler
 to Compassion, but rather beholding us as a People de-
 signed for destruction, managed himself as one resolved
 to have no small part of the Prey, while it was going;
 for he continued our Friends thus strait, refusing them any
 better Accomodation, unless they would promise him 6 d.
 per Night, to Lodge in the great Room, or Twenty One
 Shilling per Week for the Room, and bring their own
 Beds in, and Lodge there; though the said Room hath
 for this long time been supplied with no more than five
 times Three and four times Four Beds. And this is the
 said Room, the Goaler hath so much talked of, to op-
 pose our Complaint, and these are the terms which he pro-
 mised before you, upon our last Application, should be
 Reasonable, which we submit to your Judgements, be-
 lieving his Exacting such Rates, is utterly contrary to a
 just and reasonable Law, in the Town of London, and Twenty
 within of the River, and consequently besides your Autho-
 rity for regulating such Abuses, void of Law, being

But

But besides all this, they being very poor men that were thus concerned, could not engage in to great a Charge, which in a little time would encrease to such a Sum, as they were never like to be of Ability to pay, and the consequence if they should be Discharged of their present Imprisonment, would be to make themselves Prisoners for Debt so long as they Lived.

Notwithstanding the Goal was thus Thronged: Last Fifth Day of the Week, being the Twenty sixth day, Forty men more of the said People, were taken from their Meetings, where they were Peaceably Assembled to Worship God; their Meetings made a Riot, and they sent to *Bridewell*, and thence Committed to *Newgate*, being near about the Tenth Hour of the Night, before the greatest part of them were brought in; which considered, together with the fullness of the Goal before, it will not be difficult to imagine how destitute they were of Accommodation for Rest; most being forced to sit up in the *Kitchen* and *Parlour* all Night; the next day the said Forty men were sent for to Sessions, and there indicted for Breach of the Peace, and though they were there ready to Answer the Law without any further Charge, they were notwithstanding Re-committed to *Newgate* again, for want of giving security to Travelle the Indictment, which necessarily engaged them in so great a Charge, that the most of them being very poor men are not able to undergoe.

When they were thus re-committed, they thought of the best Convenience they could for Rest (most of them having layd out the Night before) and that was to lend for as many Bed Mats, Rugs and Blankets as they should need, and spread them on the Ground in the *Kitchen* and *Parlour* to lie on; but the Goaler and his Wife were so hard hearted, that they would not suffer the poor men to have the benefit of the *Kitchen* at Night, so he down in the morning they were forced to be themselves, and for a poor and kept them on the same room they were in for the first night, where there were not above 50 persons there, and room to spare; nor could admit their bringing their Mats into the great Room to lie on, unless they

they would promise to give them 6 d. per Night each; whose Condition is most of them so mean, that they are not able to bear that Charge, for the Reasons before mentioned; and being now altogether destitute of a Conventency for their Employments, whereby they maintain themselves and Families.

They being thus exposed to the Parlour and Hall which is very open and cold, they are reduced to a necessity to spread their Mats there, which they have done these two Nights, all over the Rooms, some lying under the Tables, and some upon the Tables, and some a-thwart the Room, with their Heads upon the Frame of the Table, for to procure a little Rest if possible.

It is not without regret that we are necessitated to discover this Cruelty, to the great scandal and reproach of this great City, that ever such hard-heartedness should be found therein, in any towards their Innocent and Conscientious Neighbours, and which so manifestly tends to the destruction of the Lives of so many of the Kings peaceable minded Subjects, and great danger to the Health of this City in general, which we recommend to your serious consideration for Relief: that if we must be prisoners, you would appoint us a place large enough, and fit for us; and therein you will oblige your Christian and suffering Friends.

Newgate the 14th
of the First
Month, 1687.

Signed on behalf
of all our Friends
concerned by us

Richard Vickes,
Richard Sneed,
James Wall Junior,
Edward Sadler,

The 21st of the 1st Month called March, 1687.

This Morning Meeting Sheriff *Wright*, *John Kelly*,
Thomas Clegg, *Robert Oliver*, *James Turner*,
with a Constable & Bowmen at the Meeting, *Ralph*
Oliver was heard to say, Set the Prisoners down, of which
there are two Witches. In the Afternoon of the same
day,

day at the Meeting call'd the Fryars, came J. Helliar, Captain Arundel, Hoares, a Constable, John Tilly, Thomas Luer, R. Olliffe, R. Bluppham, with a Company of Boys, John Helliar with four Constables, behaved themselves very rude in Words and Actions, pushing and thrusting our Friends, casting some of their Hats away. An ancient Woman *Susanna York* was thrown down by one of them all along upon the Ground. Mary Hooper a young Woman was roughly handled by Helliar and *Hoares* had her Scarf torn off her back between them, by their making, thrusting and tugging her against other Friends, she had been much out of order since. *Hoares* violently haled one Mary Page, Wife of Fra. Page, out of the Meeting to the endangering her life, she being big with Child. J. Helliar called our Women Friends, Whores, Bitches, Jades, Cagnots. And as they had driven Friends out before them with their Staves, they provoked the Boyes to mischief, thrusting them against the Women, encouraged the Boyes to take Dirt and throw it at them, saying, *Here is a brave Dirt, take it up and throw it upon them.* J. Helliar also bid the Boyes tear their Scarfs, and shew'd the Boyes how they might do so, by taking one Womans Scarf and endeavouring to tear it, but the Boyes, though thus excited, were restrained at that time. As they were going along, John Helliar called them ugly Whores; took off an ancient Womans Hat (to wit, *Elizabeth Long*) and threw it away; the second time he threw it into the Water, calling her old damned Bitch.

Note, These matters of Fact were Certified by several persons of Credit being Spectators, whose names are at present omitted to prevent John Helliar and his Company from insinuating the Boys to tear their Clothes, and throw Dirt upon them, on the occasion of this Account.

They standing in a mob, they way to have been moved. An ancient Man I saw in the mob, who would have been to the Boys to have been moved. The

The 14th of the First Month called March, 1688

Many hardships the Keeper as well as the Sheriff, and other Officers, do put upon us, during our Confinement here. Three Friends have been too apprehensive dangerously ill. Application has been made for them, but no favour could be had, nor to go to their homes a little for Life or Death, unless a compliance be with that which will hurt our Conscience. One Friend's Wife was Delivered of a Child, he sought to the Keeper to go but an hour or two to see her, yet could not be admitted. Another Friend's Father lay at the point of Death; he sought to see and see him, but was denied. His Father died that night. next day we sought for his Son to go to his Burial with a Keeper, and pay him for the same, but by no means could it be obtained: but other Prisoners (as Debtors, &c.) may have this privilege. We cannot get sight of the Informations or Convictions, though we have done our endeavour by two Friends and two Lawyers: the Records are not in Court, but by the Sheriff, Justice, and others their Agents, as we are Answered. It is very hard to get a Copy of the Warrants by which we are taken.

The 16th of the First Month called March, 1688

At the Meeting at Temple Green, where came Alderman, Captain, John Helma, John Lilly, Jasper Caffee, Walter Wadlow, John Patrick, John Hoare, Ralph Oliver, with a Company of Rude Boyes, as is usual, they tell to take Names, and turned our Friends out. They standing in the Streets, they went to have them away by force. An ancient Man Thomas Laffy, not going so soon as they would have him, John Helma delivered him to the Boyes to have him to Bridewell, who abused him

man exceedingly throw him down three or four times
 in the Dirt. On occasion of *Thomas Dole's* remaining to go
 along with the Boyes, *John Hellier* told him, they were
 the King's Officers. In the Afternoon of the same day
 at the Meeting at the *Friars* (so called) came most of the
 aforesaid Officers, with a rude Company of Boyes, took
Friends Names and turned them out, behaving themselves
 rude and abusive. *John Hellier* in particular called the
 Women Friends Whores, and secured four or five in the
 Meeting-house, before they turned the rest out. *Doreas*
Dole Wife of *John Dole* (which they first secured be-
 cause the Boyes said she Preach'd before they came) after
 she had been in the Meeting-house sometime, she went to
 Prayer, at which they went into her, letting her alone till
 she had done, only behaved themselves comely, and
 now and then made a great noise. Captain *Arundel* at his
 coming forth, speaking false and uncermly words about
 her saying: *John Dole* her Husband reproov'd him,
 at which the said Captain was so exceedingly enraged that
 he took his Hat off, and threw it away, but aimed to beat
 him, and said, *his mouth stiz his Teeth down his*
Throat, and that he would have his Heart out;
 with many other wicked and abusive Expressions. Soon
 after *John Hellier* struck at him with his Cane to give him
 a try, but two Women, viz. *Alice*, wife of *Thomas Kell*, and
Anne, the wife of *David James* interposing, received the
 strokes, one whereof lying on the face of *Alice Kell*, did
 her much harm. The said *John Hellier* did thrust his
 Cane at the Throat of the said *John Dole*, and at one of
 his Thrusts touched his Throat, the thrust whereof he
 avoided by turning backward. *John Hellier* also took off
 his Hat again, and threw it away, and since he hath not
 seen it, but is lost for ought he knows. At this Meeting
 some Women, in particular *Elizabeth Lang*, and *Eliza-
 beth Taylor* were very roughly treated, thrust and pushed
 on their Arms by *John Patrick*. And as our Friends wait-
 ed in the eyeward Court, where they had been brought by
 the Officers, and standing to see what became of the rest of
 such Friends. The Boyes behaved themselves very Rude
 and Abusive to the Women, thrusting them one against

another, and punching them in their backs with their Fists
 Thomas being Countable, standing by, yet well pleased
 with this work, and saying, that the beating was, and more
 of this sort, would make them weary of Counting store, and
 when he was complained to about it, he said it was nothing
 to what they should know, and this was but a beginning. He
 said Thomas was not the Boyes on, altho' some friends
 asking them, if he did, let the Dirt be in the street, upon
 which several Boyes took up Dirt and threw it at friends
 pushing and shuffling them exceedingly. The above men-
 tioned Dorcas Dale was sent to Bridewell, when, with the
 other two Friends that were sent in the Morning, they were
 continued without Murther all Night, and next day being
 commanded before the Magistrates, Dismissed, finding no
 fault to Complain them.

The value of Goods taken by Distress, with Money, exceeding
 the Fine, the 2^d of the 1st Month called January 1688

John Kelly For a Fine of 10^l 15^s 6^d the value of 10^l 15^s 6^d

From the 2^d of the 1st Month called January 1688

The Gentles For a Fine of 10^l 15^s 6^d the value of 10^l 15^s 6^d

Goods which cost 10^l 15^s 6^d

J. Kelly For a Fine of 3^l 10^s 6^d for himself and

others 3^l 10^s 6^d

J. Calverley For a Fine of 8^l 5^s 1^d the value of 8^l 5^s 1^d

R. March For a Fine of 10^l 15^s 6^d the value of 10^l 15^s 6^d

R. Smith For a Fine of 10^l 15^s 6^d the value of 10^l 15^s 6^d

R. Smith At another time for 17^l 10^s 6^d the value of 17^l 10^s 6^d

R. Erbert For a Fine of 5^l 10^s 6^d the value of 5^l 10^s 6^d

J. Low For a Fine of 7^l 10^s 6^d the first cost 7^l 10^s 6^d

and value of Goods 7^l 10^s 6^d

C. Harford For 7^l 15^s 6^d the value of 7^l 15^s 6^d

E. Jones For 7^l 15^s 6^d the value of 7^l 15^s 6^d

E. Mansfield For 6^l 15^s 6^d the value of 6^l 15^s 6^d

R. V. For 5^l 10^s 6^d the value of 5^l 10^s 6^d

These are part of the Distresses, besides the 1st of the 1st Month called January 1688

have time upon the Horses and the same according to the

award, by these excellent Spots made thereupon.

The

first with the 2nd of the 11th Month 1684

His Majesty's Comptroler's Office and Insult highly in his pretended Encouragement (since his being Kingdome) Threaten us (particularly John Tilly, and of late Thomas Ogle) that we shall have a Troop of Horse and a Company of Foot, down here to break the Meetings.

The 10th of the 11th Month 1684

Our friends coming up from the Meeting near Newgate, met the said Sheriff, he told our Women Friends (for his first salute) that next time they were at Meeting, he would fetch them, and send them to their husbands in Goal. Thus Threatening them, he said he had Authority, and that they should know. As he was going into the Prison, they manifested themselves willing to enter also; but he told them they should not until they came by Authority. Meaning to be sent further also. He was told that a friend of ours was speaking or praying in Prison, upon which he Threatened to fine the Gaoler Twenty Pound, and said, He would have all the Overseers Committed to their own Rooms.

Our friends who are included, sent to get a Copy of our Petition, and the Town Clerk refused them a Copy. Sheriff Knight and John H. were to furnish Sheriff's process, if we would not hear, he would not hear upon us, said John H. called off Edward Peery's and made several Offers to pay us. John of our Cause in his face, altogether unbecoming the Office of a Constable.

The

To Sir Thomas Earl Mayor, and the rest
of the Justices of the City of Bristol

Whose Names are hereunto Subscribed, Petitioners in your Court of Newgate, for the Discharge of our Consciences towards God, do shew before you our Lawful Magistrates, by whom we are here Committed, our Just Complaints of some late Injuries, and Acts of Violence most illegally and Arbitrarily (as we conceive) Committed against us, as followeth.

Yesterday in the Afternoon, we being Peaceably Met and Assembled together in your Prison of Newgate; for no other end but to Serve and Worship our God that made us, according to our honest Conscience, the Doctrine of Christ Jesus, the example and practice of the Apostles and primitive Christians; and whilst we were upon this Serious and Godly Meditation, all together in the Room by our selves and no other person present with us. Sheriff Knight, John Hellier, Edward Brand, George Hellier, and Isaac Dennis the Keeper, came into our said Room, called the Chapel-Chamber, which belongeth to many of us who Lodged therein, and contrary to the crown Law, which allowes as many (and that more than be of one Household and Family, to meet together to Worship God without Disturbance. The said Sheriff Knight, and John Hellier, Edward Brand, and the Keeper soon after they entered (stealing to admit any Apology or defence for our so Meeting) began in a rude and Violent manner to pull, Hurl, and Throw us out of our said Room, pushing one another. In which Action Sheriff Knight and John Hellier were so Furious, that the Sheriff protested, If we would not depart, he would put Irons upon us, and John Hellier pulled off Edward Brand's Hat and threw it away, and made several Offers to punch the joint of his Cane in his Face, altogether unbecoming the Office of a Constable.

The

Acts the
15. 25.
22.
Tim. 3. 2.
8.
Heb. 10.
25.

The Sheriff commanded the Reeper to take Roger Holland and Ironhim, and put him in the Pit, on which the said Roger Holland was immediately laid down into the Westmole, the place where the Condemned Fellons used to be kept; and there he was detained for several Hours, it being every Now some place.

Then John Barnes speaking some words to them concerning their Rude and Unchristian Proceedings, John Helliar came and took him by the Arm, saying, Is not this Fellow to be Ironed; moreover he said, The Gallies wait for you. Thus they went on with their Abuses, both in Words and Actions, until they had put most of us out of the Room, behaving themselves like men whose Faces were set against every Appearance of Good.

The Reason of this our Complaint to you is, That seriously we have, that the Design of those Actions are directed against our Lives, through the Influence of some that this Cause and Notion of God hath not a touch of Reason, which we are the more confirmed in, for that their Words and Injuries are manifestly against all Law, now known, we are not Compulsed to our Lives to have done any thing worthy of these Words. Let it to be, the Crimes laid in our Charge be supposed worthy of the Gallies, as John Helliar's words import. Let us have then a Trial, and Judgment according to Law, and not be thus scandalously and arbitrarily abused in Prison.

And for as much as we are Confin'd to this place, for your Authority, and that though the Sheriff be furnished with the said Keeping the Prison, yet the Law gives you Power to regulate the Prisoners and their Affairs in that sort, that we hope you will interpose between us and their Injuries as these, for the future; in so doing you will maintain the Honour of the Government of this great City, and by doing Justice answer the Justice of God in all Conscience, which is the desire of every Christian, and sensible Person.

Being on the 17th of the Month of July, 1707, the said Prisoners.

POST-

We whole Names are hereunto subscribed, having
 given daily notice of the aforesaid Complaints of the
 People called Quakers to Sir Thomas Bur (Mayor, and the
 rest of His Majesties Justices of Peace of this City, about
 the Necessities and fullness of the Goal of Newgate in the
 said City, tending to the suffocating and endangering of
 their Lives, for want of convenient room for Lodging and
 Air: And being desirous to enquire into, and view the
 said Goal, we were willing to accompany Richard Lane Esq;
 one of the Sheriffs for this City and County, to view the
 same. And upon said Examination of the whole condi-
 tion thereof, reached that the said Goal is very Noysome in
 General, and void of our letter Air, and therefore unfit
 to receive so great a number of Prisoners, as we now find
 there, being One hundred twenty and five the Philo-
 sophers, besides the Mayor and his Family, Eighty five
 Quakers, and the People called Quakers, who are through
 the fullness of the Goal, unreasonably distressed toge-
 ther, being as the Room in the Goal, sufficient for Lodging
 Lodgers within the Prisoners) with Four, Five, Six, or Se-
 ven men in one Bed in a Room, besides divers very little
 Closets filled with three in a Bed, and notwithstanding
 all this, we find that many of these People are necessitated
 to lie on the Ground, in the open Rooms, where no Bed-
 room is made place, and to lye down their Mats on the
 Ground, every one at that miserable rate, that it was a
 great time ago, some a thwart the Room, some
 under the Table, being a Kitchin where the Dogs were
 wont to be, some upon the Table, and some in the nooks
 over the Table, which necessarily enlarges their Lives.
 And as the weather increases in Heat, it may occasion In-
 fectionous Distempers, to the endangering the Health, not
 only of the said Prisoners, but also of the many Inhabi-
 tants of this great City. The truth of which we shall be
 ready to Certifie upon Oath, if occasion shall be. In
 Witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our
 Names this Third Day of March, in the Four and
 Thirtieth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord
 Charles, by the Grace of God of England, Scotland,
 France

France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c.
Annoq. Dom. 1681.

Simon Hurle,
 William Weston,
 John Blissett,
 Richard Codrington,

John Dudlestone,
 John Cressly,
 Michael Pope,
 Joseph Finch,

Thomas Saunders

Civitas BRISTOL.

WE whose Names are hereunto Subscribed, being
 publicly known Physicians and Inhabitants of the
 said City, having heard of the frequent Complaints of the
 People called Quakers to the Magistrates of this City Con-
 cerning the straitness and noisomeness of the Goal of Newgate,
 into which great numbers of the said People have been and
 are thronged together in a miserable manner, and we re-
 senting their condition with compassion, and considering
 of what dangerous consequence such their close Confinement
 may be of, were moved (upon a full Examination
 of the Truth thereof) to Certifie that the said Goal is very
 full and noisom; and that the said Prisoners are destitute
 of Room for rest, which hath a ready tendency (as the
 Season encreases in Heat) to the destroying and suffocating
 of them; and in all likelihood to breed infectious Dis-
 tempers, to the endangering of the Lives not only of this
 said Prisoners, but of the many Inhabitants of this great
 and populous City. *Witness our Hands this Five and
 Twentieth day of March, Anno Regni Regis Caroli Secun-
 di nunc Anglia, &c. Tricesimo Quinto, Anno Dom. 1682.*

John Griffith,

William Turgis,

J. Chauncy,

T. Bourne,

Robert Burt

Dorcas Dole's abuse by Ralph Oliffe

How I was abused by Ralph Oliffe and his Company, viz. Edm. Sommers, and a Dirty boy called Pugg, that he called about him the 2d day of the 2d Month, 1682. being the First day of the Week (commonly called Sunday.)

A Fear my Name was took, and I put out of the Meeting, some friends that were speaking together, who that was that I should have thought to be revenged of, five cost them an hundred pounds, and a fine lasting one, who it was made off, and by means of my friends, telling of him that he took a false Oath: so Ralph Oliffe came up to me and called me a liar, and said the Oath was true: I told him he spoke false, and he held me away in a great long hand said, that I had charged him, that he would not be bound to the false Oath, which I did not, for I know him not, but I knew that Thomas Lugg and John Tally were, had sworn. He held me very hard and he did along, after that I could well go, yet I could not deny to go with him till I came to the end of Great Street, but seeing him in such a rage for that as I did not say, I asked him where he was going with me, he said to Bridewell, but I did not know he was any Officer, and nothing Committed by the Sheriff, who was at the Meeting, I refused to go with him till I had seen the Mayor or a Justice of Peace.

Then he called Company to assist him, and one pulled by one Arm, and another by another, and they pulled me as if they would have pulled me in pieces; and punched me in the Back; I did dragged me along part of the way, and used me very badly when they had brought me to Bridewell, they said, They thought they did God good Service if they threw me over the Bridge into the Water; and told me up, and made offer to do it.

Han-

~~Hannah Jordan, Elizabeth Downy, and Elizabeth Har-~~
ford offered to Bail me, but he refused, and said, He had
as much power to put me there as the Mayor.

Dorcas Dole.

The 8th. of the 2d. Month 1682.

THe Sheriff Knight talks of his *Orders and Authority*,
when he is about such abusive and Inhumane
work. He continues the Friend down in the *West-*
House (called the Pit for condemned *Felons*), day and
night, not suffering him the benefit allowed the *Felons*
who come up by day. The Sheriff refusing to deliver
him thence unless he will ask him *forgiveness*, to whom
he did not the least wrong either in word or action. The
words he spoke to friends (at which the Sheriff was thus
wroth) were only thus, *viz. Friends, keep your Places.*
The Sheriff to Extenuate his Guilt, falsely Represents the
matter, as though the Friend *Refused* him, and that he
supposed he would have *Collared* him, though he did not so
much as stretch forth a hand, only stood pretty stiff, being
unwilling to be haled away. [And what had the Sheriff to
do to hale and abuse Prisoners when they are Peaceable in
Goal: What other *thanes* most *Impetuous* and *Arbitrary*
Act was it?]

The 10th of the Second Month called April, 1682.

Yesterday Morning the Sheriff and Constables sent six
friends more to *Newgate*, and in the Evening they
were sent for before Alderman *Oliffe*, the Sheriff and *Edm-*
brand, and were Committed by the Alderman, on pre-
sence of a Breach of the Peace, when no such thing in
reality could be proved against them.

The 15th of the Second Month, 1682.

THE Repeated Severities, or (more properly called) Insolent abuses of our Sheriff Knight—

Is observable by most, That the obtaining an Order to Reverse the Precedent, for enlargement of the Goal, hath greedily heightened him, in so much that he is grown the more imperious upon it. And in a Language more suitable to a Justice of Peace than a Sheriff, menacing us also with his *Power*, and how he will dispose of us (as he Towers upon it) The sufferings of our Friends are increased, the number of the Prisoners daily augmented ; and some or other of them alwaies *Sick* and *Indisposed* : so that if a speedy ease do not come by the discharge of some next Sessions, in all probability twill be a very sickly Prison, and endanger the lives of many of the Prisoners. *Sheriff Knight's* zeal, in endeavouring to eagerly to stop the First Order, and procure a Second, demonstrates the design he had to straiten the Prisoners. And his behaviour since, makes it apparent, how lightly he values the Lives of his Neighbours.

Besides the former Complaints from *Bristol*, these are added.

London 15th of the Second Month, 1682.

1. That Report made by Sir John Knight Sheriff, and mentioned in the *Observer*, of Four hundred of the King's Friends being in Prison in Newgate at Bristol, in the time of the late Wars, is known to be a notorious Untruth. Sir R. C. and others being told of it, do explode it as a very great Falshood, for One hundred and forty were the most, and they were detained there but one night for want of Accommodation ; which night they gave up Drinking, and the next day were removed into several Houses in the City, that were *Marshalls*, and sent into the Castle. Thus we have from one that was a Prisoner

Prisoner with them the same time and on the same Account.

2. *Memorandum* by the way, That our Complaints of the Straiments and Nuisomness of the Goal is also confirm'd by the Major and Aldermen of *Bristol* in their Report, dated *March 20. 1683.* in submission to the late Order of Council for the *Enlargement of the Goal*; whereby the contrary Allegations and pretences of *Sir John Knight's Sheriff* are apparently refuted.

3. That *April 16.* the said Sheriff and *John Heliar*, &c. sent ten Women to *Bridewell*, using several of them hardly; the Sheriff himself violently punching and thrusting along a tender Woman with Child, and then halting her forcibly by the hands faster than she was well able to go, and sent her to *Bridewell*. And instead of receiving her gentle perswasion to forbear his roughness; he farther threatened the Woman, that in a fortnights time he would make them *Squeek*; having nothing to alledge against them, but unjustly pretended that he knew not but they were met to Plot or Contrive to break open Prison, to get their *Husbands* out.

4. That so many more Prisoners are sent to *Newgate*, that now remains *Eighty five* straitly confin'd, and ten or more of them weak and sick.

5. That the Goaler's Cruelty was such, that he would not then suffer the poor men to work up in the Leads, they wanting Conveniency within the Prison, by reason of the Crowd.

After the Sheriff threatening to make the Women *Squeek* in a fortnights time; and his coarse and ruzed behaviour towards some of them as before. It was very remarkable in the City of *Bristol*, and notoriously evident how the Persecuting Officers and Informers behaved themselves at their designed Feast and Rude Convention in our Meeting Room the day above said, with their company of *Palers*; (being the day and time that our Friends used to meet there without the door, since that out of their Meeting Room.) And what encouragement these low Brethren Persons had then by the Sheriff's coming to disturb the Meeting, whilst they were Drinking and making themselves merry.

Merry in the Meeting Room, who at his coming threw open the Meeting-houle door, caused the Fiddlers to Play on their Fiddles, pretending they *Meant to be Merry, and came there to Dance*, (no doubt this was a Fruit of their Riotous excessive and frequent Spoil made upon their Neighbours.) And they attempted to lay hold on several Young Women Soberly met (in the Fear of God) without door. Who being Modest and Timorous of being abused by such a Lewd Company, held fast by the Ancient Women. Upon which two of the said Young Women, and those Women who Rescued them, with others for reproving the Lewdness of that Company, sent to *Bridewell* (for sometime.) The manner of one Woman Friends Reproof, was then in this wise, *viz.* Sheriff Knight, *I see that though we cannot be suffered to serve God, these* (meaning the Rude Drunken Crew and their Fiddlers) *shall be suffered to serve the Devil: Our Peaceable Meetings you seek to make Riots, but here ye your selves are Rioting and Revelling to a great Excess:* (this was Peremptory and weighty.) We shall lay theils at present of this days designed Abuse and Wickedness which the Lord (no doubt Providentially did make manifest, and in a great measure Refrain: But the notorious gross Appearance, and ill face thereof, among that Irreligious Rude Company (who spent much of that day in Drinking and Ranting at our Meeting-houle) was so much taken notice of, and sam'd in and about the City of *Bristol*, as that it will not easily be extenuated by the Guilty, much less forgotten by others.

— This Account with other aggravating Circumstances relating thereto, divers persons of Credit, who were Spectators, can Ameliorate, and no doubt will be ready to evince the Verity thereof as occasion shall require, and a meet opportunity admit.

Besides, much might be said of the Unwarrantable Behaviour, Entry and Search their Lewd Informers (i. e. *Stammers, Jones, Patrick, Calk, Calk and Oyle*) into the Dressing Room made the same day upon the Dwelling-house of a Friend in this City, to the Abusement of three small Children in their Parents Absence, and their false Pretention for that illegal and Suspicious Act: But

for

for Services of the War, and for the purpose of this
 Form, a more full Account of the same will be given.

~~We have no Accountant; nor is his account full as yet. — We may have more to receive of this kind. — They took Goods from others of our friends, of which~~

— Bristol the 22d. of the 2d Month 1682. Newgate.

Loving Friend,

WE are here about 85. God hath been very good to us, and we well content; though we are a great Family in Prison, both we and Friends ournd exceedingl^y exercised by the Cruelty of those that Prosecute us Yesterday and to day great Havock hath been made on Friends Goods, for himes for Meeting the 1st of the 4th Month 1681. viz.

	l.	s.	d.
For a Fine of 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ odd Money, Goods taken from Charles Harford to the value of—	18	00	00

For Fine of 10th odd Money, Goods taken
from John Love to the value of _____ } ad 100-00

For a Fine of 5 L. odd Money, Goodstaken } 13-00-0
from Thomas Mozley to the value of ————
For a Fine of 8 L. odd Money, Goodstaken } 13-00-0

from Charles James Sen. to the value of
For a Fine of 124. odd Money, Goodstaken

from Charles Jones Jun. to the value of
For a Fine of 6l. odd Money, Goods taken

Form B - Form B is used to report the value of goods shipped to the United States from a foreign country. It is required for all shipments valued at \$500 or more.

Fine Office Road Money T. Linder

Barth Fink and Odd Moe, *Ridgely*

Money taken from 1934-35. 1935-36. 1936-37. 1937-38. 1938-39. 1939-40. 1940-41. 1941-42. 1942-43. 1943-44. 1944-45. 1945-46. 1946-47. 1947-48. 1948-49. 1949-50. 1950-51. 1951-52. 1952-53. 1953-54. 1954-55. 1955-56. 1956-57. 1957-58. 1958-59. 1959-60. 1960-61. 1961-62. 1962-63. 1963-64. 1964-65. 1965-66. 1966-67. 1967-68. 1968-69. 1969-70. 1970-71. 1971-72. 1972-73. 1973-74. 1974-75. 1975-76. 1976-77. 1977-78. 1978-79. 1979-80. 1980-81. 1981-82. 1982-83. 1983-84. 1984-85. 1985-86. 1986-87. 1987-88. 1988-89. 1989-90. 1990-91. 1991-92. 1992-93. 1993-94. 1994-95. 1995-96. 1996-97. 1997-98. 1998-99. 1999-00. 2000-01. 2001-02. 2002-03. 2003-04. 2004-05. 2005-06. 2006-07. 2007-08. 2008-09. 2009-10. 2010-11. 2011-12. 2012-13. 2013-14. 2014-15. 2015-16. 2016-17. 2017-18. 2018-19. 2019-20. 2020-21. 2021-22. 2022-23. 2023-24. 2024-25. 2025-26. 2026-27. 2027-28. 2028-29. 2029-30. 2030-31. 2031-32. 2032-33. 2033-34. 2034-35. 2035-36. 2036-37. 2037-38. 2038-39. 2039-40. 2040-41. 2041-42. 2042-43. 2043-44. 2044-45. 2045-46. 2046-47. 2047-48. 2048-49. 2049-50. 2050-51. 2051-52. 2052-53. 2053-54. 2054-55. 2055-56. 2056-57. 2057-58. 2058-59. 2059-60. 2060-61. 2061-62. 2062-63. 2063-64. 2064-65. 2065-66. 2066-67. 2067-68. 2068-69. 2069-70. 2070-71. 2071-72. 2072-73. 2073-74. 2074-75. 2075-76. 2076-77. 2077-78. 2078-79. 2079-80. 2080-81. 2081-82. 2082-83. 2083-84. 2084-85. 2085-86. 2086-87. 2087-88. 2088-89. 2089-90. 2090-91. 2091-92. 2092-93. 2093-94. 2094-95. 2095-96. 2096-97. 2097-98. 2098-99. 2099-00. 2100-01. 2101-02. 2102-03. 2103-04. 2104-05. 2105-06. 2106-07. 2107-08. 2108-09. 2109-10. 2110-11. 2111-12. 2112-13. 2113-14. 2114-15. 2115-16. 2116-17. 2117-18. 2118-19. 2119-20. 2120-21. 2121-22. 2122-23. 2123-24. 2124-25. 2125-26. 2126-27. 2127-28. 2128-29. 2129-30. 2130-31. 2131-32. 2132-33. 2133-34. 2134-35. 2135-36. 2136-37. 2137-38. 2138-39. 2139-40. 2140-41. 2141-42. 2142-43. 2143-44. 2144-45. 2145-46. 2146-47. 2147-48. 2148-49. 2149-50. 2150-51. 2151-52. 2152-53. 2153-54. 2154-55. 2155-56. 2156-57. 2157-58. 2158-59. 2159-60. 2160-61. 2161-62. 2162-63. 2163-64. 2164-65. 2165-66. 2166-67. 2167-68. 2168-69. 2169-70. 2170-71. 2171-72. 2172-73. 2173-74. 2174-75. 2175-76. 2176-77. 2177-78. 2178-79. 2179-80. 2180-81. 2181-82. 2182-83. 2183-84. 2184-85. 2185-86. 2186-87. 2187-88. 2188-89. 2189-90. 2190-91. 2191-92. 2192-93. 2193-94. 2194-95. 2195-96. 2196-97. 2197-98. 2198-99. 2199-00. 2200-01. 2201-02. 2202-03. 2203-04. 2204-05. 2205-06. 2206-07. 2207-08. 2208-09. 2209-10. 2210-11. 2211-12. 2212-13. 2213-14. 2214-15. 2215-16. 2216-17. 2217-18. 2218-19. 2219-20. 2220-21. 2221-22. 2222-23. 2223-24. 2224-25. 2225-26. 2226-27. 2227-28. 2228-29. 2229-30. 2230-31. 2231-32. 2232-33. 2233-34. 2234-35. 2235-36. 2236-37. 2237-38. 2238-39. 2239-40. 2240-41. 2241-42. 2242-43. 2243-44. 2244-45. 2245-46. 2246-47. 2247-48. 2248-49. 2249-50. 2250-51. 2251-52. 2252-53. 2253-54. 2254-55. 2255-56. 2256-57. 2257-58. 2258-59. 2259-60. 2260-61. 2261-62. 2262-63. 2263-64. 2264-65. 2265-66. 2266-67. 2267-68. 2268-69. 2269-70. 2270-71. 2271-72. 2272-73. 2273-74. 2274-75. 2275-76. 2276-77. 2277-78. 2278-79. 2279-80. 2280-81. 2281-82. 2282-83. 2283-84. 2284-85. 2285-86. 2286-87. 2287-88. 2288-89. 2289-90. 2290-91. 2291-92. 2292-93. 2293-94. 2294-95. 2295-96. 2296-97. 2297-98. 2298-99. 2299-00. 2300-01. 2301-02. 2302-03. 2303-04. 2304-05. 2305-06. 2306-07. 2307-08. 2308-09. 2309-10. 2310-11. 2311-12. 2312-13. 2313-14. 2314-15. 2315-16. 2316-17. 2317-18. 2318-19. 2319-20. 2320-21. 2321-22. 2322-23. 2323-24. 2324-25. 2325-26. 2326-27. 2327-28. 2328-29. 2329-30. 2330-31. 2331-32. 2332-33. 2333-34. 2334-35. 2335-36. 2336-37. 2337-38. 2338-39. 2339-40. 2340-41. 2341-42. 2342-43. 2343-44. 2344-45. 2345-46. 2346-47. 2347-48. 2348-49. 2349-50. 2350-51. 2351-52. 2352-53. 2353-54. 2354-55. 2355-56. 2356-57. 2357-58. 2358-59. 2359-60. 2360-61. 2361-62. 2362-63. 2363-64. 2364-65. 2365-66. 2366-67. 2367-68. 2368-69. 2369-70. 2370-71. 2371-72. 2372-73. 2373-74. 2374-75. 2375-76. 2376-77. 2377-78. 2378-79. 2379-80. 2380-81. 2381-82. 2382-83. 2383-84. 2384-85. 2385-86. 2386-87. 2387-88. 2388

and to the Book, and when he had said all, he went to
his Chamber, and there he lay down, and he slept.

11



They got into Richard Mumfres House, and made Gas Havock; a more full Account whereof may be given. They took Goods from others of our Friends, of which we have no Account yet; nor is this Account so full as we intend — We may have more to mention of this kind, in that we hear they intend to go to it again — They having Warrants for 400 £ — Quarter Sessions is to be next third day of the Week, by which they pretend to effect it as we hear. The Bishop is come, and all things seem preparing to subulate, but our hope is in the Lord, and we commend our Cause to him alone. — All Dear Friends Pray for us, that we may be kept Faithful to the end. These Distresses are taken for a Meeting, whereat was no Preaching or Praying that they pretend to; not was any then, that we can call to mind.

*Bristol the 29th. of the 2d. Month called
April, 1682.*

*An Account of the manner of Proceedings at the late
Sessions for the City and County of Bristol, which
began the 25th of the 2d. Month 1682.*

THe first day of the Sessions was spent in setting the Court, calling over Names of such as were out on Recognizance and such like Bonds, and preparing business. The second day some Appeals and other Business of the Professors came on; amidst which *Erasmus Dole* was called forth, and was prevailed upon (in the Declaration of Allegiance contain'd in the Oath) to say after the Clerk, adding some words which he did not like, and saying others in their place, as, *I Declare*, instead of, *I Swear*; which the Court being willing to dispense with, suffered him to go on. In the mean time the Goaler held his Mace to the Book; and when he had said all, put it to his

his Mouth, (4) At which the Court made a great *Phaw*. For as the Oath was Reading, the Bishop (as it was apprehended to Salve the Objection made against his saying, *I declare*, instead of *I Swear*) told the Court, That alter'd it not from being an Oath. (5) This done, they gloried, as having obtained a Conquest; but Commended and Encouraged him. The News of this we expect next Week to the Nation in the Grand Jury Presentment for this City; wherein, if I mistake not, they lay down the good Success of their Endeavours with him, to be an Encouragement for the Procedure with others.

Swearing. For if the Goaler meant to make his putting the Book to his Mouth, go for an Oath, 'tis very probable that was not *Erasmus*'s meaning in making and taking the Declaration only, and saying *I declare*, instead of *I Swear*. Which when done with the Goalers Impos'd Ceremony of the Book: If *Erasmus* had told the Court in this wise, viz. Under favour I have now taken the Declaration of Allegiance contained in the Oath; and I do sincerely mean as I have declared, and hope in God to perform it; and I accept it as your Moderation and Favour, that you were pleas'd to dispense with the *swearing* part and those words in it that make it an Oath, and instead thereof to accept of my Honesty and Naked Declaration in the Case, without *Swearing*. Only I desire that the Goalers Imposition and Force put upon me about the Book may not be taken as my Act, nor as if I Swore or intended to Swear, thereby (for God knows I did not) 'twas his Act and meaning not mine; a force put upon me did not make me Swear from my Heart, when I intended no *Swearing* at all, but only to declare from my Heart as I have done, &c. This had taken off and prevented the occasion since taken. But it had been *Erasmus*'s his clearest way at first to have Craved leave of the Court to have given his Declaration freely, without those Impositions of the Goaler, relating to the Book; and to have insisted upon it, that his naked meaning and sense might have been more free and obvious to the Court. (6) The Bishop and *Erasmus* (it seems) were not both of one Opinion in that point; for though *Erasmus* scrupled to Swear Allegiance, yet not to declare and perform his Allegiance to the King.

(4) That seems to be a force put upon the Prisoner by the Goaler, and not the Prisoners Voluntary Act; nor an Act of Court; for 'twas not a Judicial Act; no more than the holding his Hand on the Book needful. If the Court was so moderate (as it seems they were) as to accept his taking the Declaration of Allegiance (merely as such) instead of

Also the second day of the Sessions in the Morning, our Friends that were out upon Bonds, were Discharg'd of those Bonds, and some gave new Bonds to Answer the next Sessions, and so were dismiss'd. In the Afternoon all the Prisoners except the Old ones, and *John Moon* (who is Committed for six Months absolute) were called forth, and many (if not most) called to the Bar, and acquainted with the reason of their Commitment, and were told of their being Indicted; and to some their Indictments were Read, some pleaded Not Guilty, and others refused to plead, till they

had a Copy of the Indictment. This done the Favour of the Court was offered to all on Submission, some were over-perswaded, and so Fined *Off*. and immediately Dis-

(A) It's probable these Poor apprehend Prisoners had a secret Confidence in the Justice and Moderation of the Court, than in the Justice of a Jury of Sheriff Knights attending and meddling. Or in a Jury made up of Artillery-men. *That if it were a Case of Murther or Treason, he thought he might do it without any Damage, but the Cause was the Lords, and not his, and his Confidence was concern'd therein, and therefore could not submit to it, but hoped the Lord would support him under what he should suffer to maintain the same.* There then present were asked the Question, and denying Submission, in the sense (as 'twas supposed) they intended, were put by, and some few, that so far complied, were Discharged; and the rest of us sent back to Prison. But before they dismiss us, they promised to bring some of us on to a Tryal.

The next day following, the Morning before we were called, they went to Tryal on one Indictment, for about twelve of our Friends, some in and some out of Prison. We retained Council, and had it pleaded closely. At last the Council perceiving the Temper of the Jury, Demurred to the Evidence, which Demurrer was allowed. This was for a Meeting out of the House. We encouraged hard to carry a Demurrer again to the Evidence upon another Indictment, for a Meeting in the House, but the Town Clerk would not allow of it, neither would he allow us a Special Verdict. Eleven of the Priors were concerned in this Indictment, and cast by means of a Prejudiced Jury, and there was no having a better. For though our Council Insisted upon Sheriff Lane's testimony in the Jury, because Sheriff Knight was chief Evidence against us, yet that could not be obtained. But the Under-Sheriff Tho. Osell was required to do it, which he did of most Advantage to our Disadvantage. And so our Liberties were betrayed. Notwithstanding they appeared so Unfable for this occasion, Providence so ordered it, that they brought in a Verdict as first delivered by the Fore-man, after this manner, *viz.* Guilty of being at an Meeting in a House in Temple-street, and not departing on Proclamation. One of them being questioned by the Town-

Town-Clark. What was his Reason for his Dissent from his Brethren? (though no Dissent appeared) The said person Replied, He had understood or known for some years, that the People called Quakers, had met upon a Religious Account in that House, and had understood that we used sometimes to have Silent Meetings for Worship, and he believed this so. When this Verdict was brought, the Prisoners said, it was a Special Verdict, and that it was the Truth of the matter, and all that was proved against us, and desired to have it Recorded: But the Town-Clark over-ruled all, and sent them in again. Who after a considerable time being Absent, they returned, and brought us in Guilty of the Indictment. And then the Court Fined us, one 40 s. another 40 s. and some 10 s. and some 5 s. a man. We insisted upon our Innocency, and refused to pay it, and were sent with the rest of our Friends to Prison.

In the Afternoon the Prisoners were called again, and those that were Fined, were brought to the Court also, which was unexpected. One of them who came last into the Court, the Court called for him to the Bar, and told him: That the Court did discharge him, and that the King was very Gracious and Merciful. The Prisoner did not shew himself ungrateful, but said, That he was con-
 sidered by Law, and if they would discharge him, he would take it kindly, he professed nothing but sincerity to God in his Affairs, and to walk innocently towards God and Man, as much as lay in his Power: And hoped they would have also Discharged the rest that were Fined; but they did not, only proceeded to Convict and Fine others, and so sent them to Prison again.

This Morning the Mayor sent for all again, except those that were Fined, and Discharged them on Promise of their Appearance next Sessions, so there remains at present about Seventeen of our Prisoners on Account of Meetings, besides John Moon and Thomas Robertson. Thus though a large Account is given of Proceedings, yet not without Omission of some considerable Passages relating to the Tryals at present.

It is expected Sir John Knight Sheriff, will go on with the same work again, according to his late moved Courtesies, if the Court please not.

Since

C. V. L. E. T.

*Printed the first going Relation, this is come to hand from
Erasmus Dole, Bristol the 29th of the 2d. Month, 1682.*

*To Sir Thomas Earl Mayor, and the rest of the Justices of this
City.*

Being Yesterday when before you, at the Sessions in Common-
law, presented of what I had to offer to the Court, thought
good by this to present it you.

I. To acknowledge your tender regard and condescension un-
to me, for so I took it, as to accept of my unfeigned Declaration
of my Allegiance to the King; which by this I intend no wayes
to Exterminate, but confirm: And truly desire the Lord may be
His Preserver, Guide and Director to the end of his days, which
the Lord will to be many and Blessed in this the Land of my Na-
tivity. And forasmuch as many various and false Reports hath
been spread abroad about this City and elsewhere, which hath
tended to the Reputach of my self, and my Friends the People
called Quakers touching my said Declaration, which you were
then pleased to examine, as if it had been an Oath, contrary to
my expectations, and beyond wherever I intended it, all you
are my Witnesses, I had fully given my Testimony that I could
not Swear at all, but was always ready to acknowledge my
Allegiance as fully as then I did; and then had, as now I have,
a Testimony against Swearing in my self, and hope as I have,
shall rather chuse to suffer than break Christs Command, who
saith, *Swear not at all*, wishing unto you all Everlasting Happi-
ness in the way of Righteous: Can in Truth Subscribe my self
your well meaning Neighbour.

Erasmus Dole.

*Now Serious Reader, Observe how this Confirms the precedent Ac-
count of Erasmus Dole's meaning against Swearing.*